



Share Some Science!!

[science](#)

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Chapter 1 by DaniSko

I'm a really huge fan of science and one of my favourite things to do is to share scientific knowledge and technological breakthroughs. I hope some of you feel the same!

You don't have to write anything crazily obscure or highly technical, just write about something you find interesting! If you've got sources cite them!

Here's my starter:

LEFT BRAIN vs RIGHT BRAIN: DO YOUR HEMISPHERES REALLY WORK TOGETHER??

You've probably heard a lot about people being left brain dominant or right brain dominant. The left brainers are supposedly more logical, fact oriented, and analytical (I would fall under this category) and the right brainers are supposed to be more artistic, intuitive, and empathetic.

Of course this is not entirely true. No single hemisphere is responsible for creating a person's entire personality. Personality, is rather, quite a complex subject.

The two hemispheres are connected by the corpus callosum which transmits commands from one side to another. Both halves of the brain can, in fact, operate independently.

This is illustrated with split brain patients, their corpus callosums have been severed. Their right brain is no longer subject to the censorship of the left brain. Many of them lead normal

lives but those that don't provide an insight as to how the two hemispheres operate independently.

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In fact, studies are showing that the left brain is the center of logic and reasoning. This is difficult to test, of course, because the left brain is the center of spoken language.

However, scientists have been very clever at devising tests that appeal to one or the other hemisphere.

They found that hemispheres could even have different religious beliefs and one hemisphere may control it's respective side of the body without the interference of the other.

Dr, Strangelove Syndrome, as it is often referred to as, can be quite strange and unsettling both for the patient and those around them. In one case a man reached to hug his wife with one hand, only to punch her in the face with the other (Kaku, 38). These patients are unable to assert control over these "alien" limbs and have to constantly monitor or restrain these limbs when they begin to act up.

So how is it that we perceive ourselves to have only one consciousness, one brain, when our hemispheres are so obviously different?

It's also been found that the left brain is the dominant hemisphere in a whole brain situation. We receive a mass of data from the right brain but it's the left brain that decides what to focus on and how to process it.

It's found that minor dysfunctions are the cause of the left brain simply creating an explanation for phenomena it cannot explain.

In an experiment, a man was shown the word "red" to his left brain and was shown an image of a banana to his right brain. He was then asked to draw with his right hand. He drew a banana. When asked why, he simply stated that it was easier to draw with his right hand rather than stating that he did not know. The left brain had made up an excuse for an action it was entirely unaware of.

Resources:

Michio Kaku, *"The Future of the Mind"*, (Anchor Books, 2014) pp. 37-39, pp. 58-59

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